

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-19 SCI-06 CEQ-02 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 COA-02

JUSE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 FMC-04 NSF-04 OIC-04 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 AEC-11 AGR-20 OMB-01 RSR-01

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 908

INFO USUN NEWYORK 9408

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 4062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJ: LOS: GROUP OF FIVE MEETING ON SEABEDS JULY 25

1. GROUP OF FIVE (UK, USSR, US, FRANCE AND JAPAN) HELD MEETING AT US MISSION JULY 25, 1973 TO DISCUSS COORDINATION AND TACTICS IN WORKING GROUP (WG) 1 ON SEABED MACHINERY WITH EMPHASIS ON PREPARATION OF DETAILED RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DEEP SEA MINING AND POSSIBILITY OF BRINGING CLOSER TOGETHER VARIOUS POSITIONS ON LICENSING SYSTEM.

2. GROUP AGREED TO FOLLOWING TIMETABLE WITH RESPECT TO PREPARATION OF DRAFT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DEEP SEA MINING OUTSIDE FRAMEWORK OF SEABED COMMITTEE: OCTOBER 15 - DEADLINE FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP TO SUBMIT SUGGESTIONS FOR PROJECT TO US DRAFTER (LEIGH RATINER); NOVEMBER 9 - US TO SEND DRAFT TO MEMBERS OF GROUP, ALTHOUGH US MAY NOT HAVE GIVEN AT THAT TIME
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ITS FINAL SUBSTANTIVE APPROVAL TO DRAFT; DECEMBER 15 -

APPROXIMATE DATE FOR GROUP OF FIVE MEETING OF EXPERTS TO DISCUSS DRAFT. IT WAS AGREED THAT FINAL DATE SHOULD BE FLEXIBLE IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE TO ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE. WASHINGTON AND IF NECESSARY, NEW YORK WERE MENTIONED AS PROBABLE SITES FOR MEETING.

3. UK AND USSR REPS STILL THOUGHT (THOUGH DID NOT PRESS THE VIEW THAT) IT ADVISABLE INITIALLY TO ATTEMPT TO GET SEABED COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH GROUP OF EXPERTS FOR DRAFTING MINING REGULATIONS, ALTHOUGH REST OF GROUP FELT THIS PROCEDURE WAS UNLIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL. GROUP AGREED TO BEGIN EMPHASIZING NEED FOR SUCH REGULATIONS IN INTERVENTIONS DURING FOLLOWING WEEK.

4. GROUP DISCUSSED PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL FOR LICENSING. FRENCH REP (LEGOUX) EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD INTRODUCE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR PERMANENT BOARD TO DEAL WITH COMPETING APPLICATIONS FOR MINE SITES LATER WHEN WG DISCUSSED LICENSING SYSTEM.

US REP (RATINER) SAID THAT US INTENDED TO ASSEMBLE NEW ARTICLE ON LICENSING COMPRISED OF VARIOUS PARTS OF US DRAFT TREATY. UK AGREED TO WAIT UNTIL LATER TIME TO INTRODUCE PROPOSAL FOR QUOTA SYSTEM. GROUP SEEMED TO GENERALLY AGREE THAT A MORE UNIFORM APPROACH TO LICENSING WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS BUT NO DECISION WAS TAKEN ON HOW TO COORDINATE EXISTING POSITIONS. BASSIN

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